

# **AIRLIFT** Dispatch

Happy Holidays  
from the staff of  
the Airlift Dispatch.  
The next issue of  
the paper will be  
Jan. 11.

Vol. 40, No. 50

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Dec. 21, 2001

## Officials explain 2002 military pay, allowances

by Staff Sgt. Amy Parr  
*Air Force Print News*

In the event the fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act is not approved by the end of the year, officials said people should not worry; guidelines are in place.

Effective Jan. 1, military pay and allowances will be based on previous statute authority, unless Congress approves the NDAA and the president signs it into law before then.

People need to be aware of what changes will be made and pay close attention to January and February 2002 leave and earning statements, said Maj. Shannon Averill, Air Force pay and allowance entitlement policy chief.

Without a signed NDAA on Jan. 1, basic pay will increase at 4.6 percent across the board. Averill said this number is based on the fiscal 2000 authorization for military raises to be

See PAY, page 3



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

### Keeping watch

A U.S. Navy Mobile Naval Construction Battalion 113 Seabee, from Gulfport, Miss., provides perimeter security for a Charleston AFB C-17 at an operating location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. C-17 aircrews from CAFB airlanded and infilled the Seabees, making it the first ever successful strategic airlift operation by a C-17 aircraft into an undeveloped dirt landing strip. CAFB aircraft and personnel are currently deployed worldwide.

## CAFB ID cards go high-tech: Change to new 'smart' card begins in 437 MSS, rest of Team Charleston to follow

By Staff Sgt.  
**Melanie Streeter**  
*437 AW Public Affairs*

Charleston AFB personnel began receiving new and "smart" official Department of Defense identification

cards recently.

The new Common Access Card, about the size of a credit card, contains an integrated circuit chip, linear bar code, two-dimensional bar code, magnetic stripe, color digital photograph and printed information.

Currently, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron personnel are receiving the cards, according to Capt. Robin McKinley, military personnel flight commander.

"We are using our squadron as a test squadron to ensure the customer service folks are fully trained," McKinley said.

All other active-duty members, DOD civilians and eligible contractor personnel will receive the cards based on priority, such as those with high deployment tempos, according to McKinley.

The card will be used like

the current ID card and used anywhere the current version is required, McKinley said. In the future, it will give each member access to buildings and controlled spaces, computer and network access, and is the primary platform for the Public Key Infrastructure. The CAC, in conjunction with PKI, will enable technology that provides data protection through authentication and data integrity.

Simply put, the card enables cardholders to digitally sign e-mail, encrypt information, and establish secure Web sessions to access and update information via the Internet.

The new cards will also provide name, gender, benefits and privileges, blood type and organ donor information.

"These provisions are intended to enhance individual privacy and information as-

urance in (DOD) as computerized systems replace paper-based systems," said Essye Miller, chief of the Air Force Communications and Information's infrastructure branch at the Pentagon in a news release.

"The CAC will be issued using the existing infrastructure of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and the Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System in our military personnel flights," she said.

McKinley said the new card will save time and eliminate some existing hassles.

"People won't need multiple ID cards," McKinley said. "Also, PKI will allow single sign-on access control, signing electronic documents and encrypting e-mail. It will basically eliminate many paper-based processes and save

time."

Master Sgt. Ronnie Cullum, superintendent of MPF customer service, said individuals receiving the new card need to bring their current military ID and have a six-eight digit personal identification number in mind. Because the new process for producing the card is more involved, he said customers should expect the process to take somewhat longer, with the average wait time between seven and 12 minutes.

Initially, it was seen as a means of conveniently transporting small amounts of information, but advances in technology allow increased storage as well as the capability to conduct secure data transfer and on-line transactions, according to an earlier article by Air Force News.





## IN THE NEWS

## Reservist delivers meals to 437 SFS

By Senior Airman  
Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

A staff sergeant assigned to the 315<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron has been bringing holiday meals to Charleston AFB security forces members for more than seven years.

Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, Charlene Lowe delivers dinners with all the trimmings to the Dorchester Gate, Rivers Gate and 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron control center.

"I just want to let them know they are cared about, and their hard work is appreciated," said Lowe. "They give up so much for us to keep the whole base safe. I have so much respect for them."

For Thanksgiving, Lowe and her mother, Gwen, delivered enough plates for everyone on duty. Among the foods prepared were turkey, ham, stuffing, potato salad, tuna salad, carrot salad, rolls, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, London broil and various pies. While Lowe absorbed most of the cost of the meal, the 437 SFS Council pitched in by purchasing two turkeys.

"They were so happy," said Lowe about the reaction of security members when she

delivered the Thanksgiving meals. "They let me attend guard mount to help give out the plates. It was cool because the food was still hot. Mom and I finished the plates ten minutes before our deadline."

Lowe said she started bringing the meals to the posts for many reasons, but most importantly because of a promise she made to herself.

"When I was in basic training over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Arnest family from Lackland AFB, Texas, took me and my friend in for dinner," said Lowe. "They treated us like we were part of their family. Since then, I promised myself in some way to return the favor. A lot of times the security forces work shifts, and they don't get to eat with their families, or they just don't have time to cook. They give up their holidays to keep us safe, and this is just something small I can do in return."

Lowe also said her younger brother John Lowe III is active duty Air Force, and other families share their home with him when he can't make it back to Charleston for the holidays.

The entire meal takes about three days to prepare, according to Lowe. According to Gwen, that's extra time she gets to spend with her daughter.

"Making the dinners meant a lot to me personally because not only did we help others, but I was able to spend time with my daughter, Char, on a holiday project," said Gwen. "We had a ball."

Others helping Lowe and Gwen include Tech. Sgt. Valerie Langford, 315<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, who purchased containers, and Senior Master Sgt. Terry Smith, 315<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, who helped purchase the food. Even Lowe's neighbor was able to give a hand.

"The coolest thing is that my neighbor, Lisa, let us use her oven to bake pies," said Lowe. "Without her, we would not have made our deadline."

Security forces members can count on plates again for Christmas this year. Lowe promised to deliver all the same types of food she did for Thanksgiving. Even though she has limited help, anyone wishing to pitch in and help buy some of the food can call Lowe at 824-6132, or page her at 255-0348.

"God has been so very good to us, and it's great to have someone to share it with," said Lowe. "It's really nice to have someone else to make a plate for."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

### Abracadabra

Ron Conley, father of Staff Sgt. Mark Conley, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Operation Squadron, dresses Col. John Hill, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group commander, as Harry Potter during the group's annual holiday party Dec. 14. The senior Conley said he's been performing magic for about 35 years. Ron's "Magical Say No Show," a comedic approach to teaching children about the dangers of drugs, has been presented in nearly every elementary and primary school in South Carolina. "When I do the show at schools, I'm looking for that one kid out there who really needs the help," Ron said.

## New policy allows first termers to extend for 'personal convenience'

437 AW career assistance advisor says change will help many in making tough decision to stay or go

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
437 AW Public Affairs

Air Force Personnel Center officials recently announced a new program that will allow first-term airmen to extend their enlistment one year for "personal convenience."

Prior to this change, first-term airmen could only apply to extend for mission-related reasons, according to an AFPC news release.

"The initiative originated with the major command senior enlisted leadership, and it makes sense to implement the change, given our current focus on retention," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch in the release.

According to the release, the change falls under Rule 28, Best Interest of the Air Force, in Air Force Instruction 36-2606, Reenlistment In the United States Air Force.

"We average between 120-170 first-term airmen who are eligible to reenlist every year," said Master Sgt. Matt Harless, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing career assistance advisor. "These are the

people who will be affected."

Harless said he thinks the change will make a big difference when it comes to retaining first termers.

"This change definitely gives us another bargaining chip," Harless said. "I see our target as those 'undecided' personnel out there. Again, they are the group we have the greatest chance of positively influencing a decision to stay."

"A 12-month extension gives members more time to decide what the best choice is for them and their families," Harless continued. "It gives them 12 additional months to see if those career irritants are only 'temporary', and it gives them a little more time to see the DoD is making significant gains in the benefits we desperately need."

Harless said the decision to stay in the Air Force or try the civilian world is often influenced by a number of issues, not all military related.

"I often talk to airmen, and NCOs, who always want a little more time to decide," Harless said. "You have to realize that this is one of the most

important decisions they will ever make in their life. People often have issues that are unrelated to military life, but which directly affect it."

"Having the extra time may allow them the opportunity to solve these problems and realize that it is better to stay in," Harless added. "The big problem is that often people don't plan for their separation until it is too close to time to sign on the dotted line. This will give those procrastinators an opportunity to look more closely at what the transition will mean in terms of being able to take care of themselves and their families, as well as serve their country."

According to Harless, a lot of time should be spent researching options before any decision is made to leave the military. Some things he suggested included airmen sitting down with their supervisors or the career advisor and getting honest feedback on their career and what it will be like trying to transition to the civilian sector.

"There is certainly a lot more to it

than just comparing pay scales," Harless said. "The amount of people who were in the Air Force, separated, then after separation want to come back in the military has doubled every year for the last three years. People are finding it more and more difficult to get the kind of security and benefits that they receive while in the Air Force."

Airmen around the base were pleased with the new option.

"I think it's great," said Senior Airman Jen Fuqua, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron. "I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do, but this extension will help me make my decision wisely."

Harless said individuals are eligible for this extension if they are otherwise eligible and selected for reenlistment consideration and are currently on no other extension. First-term airmen can only extend under this rule once, and the total of this and any other extensions cannot exceed 23 months.

For more information about the program, call Harless at 963-8004.



# Deployed first sergeant takes care of 437 EAS airmen

By Master Sgt. Dan Murphy  
437 AW Public Affairs

When the aircrews and maintainers of the C-17 Globemaster III deploy, they don't leave their personal lives behind and may need the help of a first sergeant.

Currently, Master Sgt. Terry Gabbert, 437<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Squadron and 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron first sergeant, holds that job. Gabbert reported to Ramstein AB, Germany, Oct. 15 after an unexpected phone call.

"It was a Sunday, and I was coming out to the squadron to check on my troops when I got the phone call," said Gabbert. "I had three hours to pack, say good-bye to my family and hit the road."

Gabbert boarded a C-17 with 10 other Team Charleston members and flew to Germany where he met up with about 150 others who had arrived about two weeks earlier.

"They already had some issues for me to work when I arrived," said Gabbert. "I got my billeting room, in-processed and started work the next morning."

One of the problem areas he first tackled was where the troops were staying.

"We had people billeted in many areas due to the large influx of personnel to Ramstein," said Gabbert. "This caused us some problems at first with personnel caught in the

lines at the gate and unable to get to work on time. I have now ensured all our personnel are on base at Ramstein."

No two days are alike for Gabbert and he likes a challenge.

"I worked an officer training school package the first week so a staff sergeant from aerial port squadron would make his deadline," said Gabbert. "I think he has a pretty good chance."

Life back home marches on and sometimes brings deployed members sad news.

"I have handled five emergency leaves that included two deaths and three serious health problems," said Gabbert. "Once I learned the process for overseas, I found it was easier to make them happen."

Morale is very important at a deployed location, and Gabbert went searching for any areas he could improve.

"The maintenance personnel were eating MREs when I first arrived, so I found a way to provide them with box lunches," said Gabbert. "Every morning, anyone who wants lunch fills out a form and will have something to eat. I have also arranged four cook-outs with burgers and bratwurst out behind our building."

The one area that takes the most time and attention for Gabbert is the government travel card program.

"Many cards expire while here, and we have to have new ones sent," said

Gabbert. "We also have limits that were too low, and the member can't get any money. We have smoothed out the process of filing interim travel vouchers, enabling the members to pay their card bills so we don't have travel card problems at the end of the month."

Taking care of the troops is something that has not gone unnoticed.

"He's doing a great job," said Lt. Col. Steve Dellies, 437 ES director of operations. "I was here before we had a shirt. No one was happier to see him than the interim first sergeant. He really knows the nuances of the job."

Second Lt. Derick Seaton, 437 ES logistics officer, echoes that sentiment. Seaton is a former master sergeant who supervised many of these kinds of troops.

"Like a good first sergeant should, he takes care of all 170 personnel," said Seaton. "He's a God-send for us, and I don't think he has had a day off since arriving. He's a prior maintenance troop himself, so he feels our pain. He put on one of the best Thanksgiving dinners I have ever had. He coordinated everything through the chapel on base."

Life for a first sergeant is not all problems. Gabbert's current deployment has seen a steady stream of distinguished visitors who have helped with the morale of the troops.

They have been visited by Gen.

Tommy Franks, United States Central Command commander; Secretary of the Air Force Donald Roche; and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch.

"The visit by Gen. Franks was really something," said Gabbert. "It had the troops ready to go and kick some butt. It really raised the morale around here."

One airman expressed his thanks for the visit.

"It was really great hearing good things from Gen. Franks and all the commanders," said Senior Airman Adam Slempla, 437 ES crew chief. "It really makes you feel appreciated."

The rewards that come from being a first sergeant are a little different deployed than at the home station.

"The impact here is more rewarding," said Gabbert. "It's almost immediate, you see the result. At home, troops have more support around them, but here we are their family and provide the support."

As his time winds down at Ramstein Gabbert will be missed by many of those he will leave behind.

"Anyone that replaces him better have big shoes," said Seaton.

*Gabbert, who spent 65 days deployed, returned to Charleston AFB Wednesday, along with a number of other deployed Team Charleston members.*

## PAY

continued from page 1

set at the Employment Cost Index plus .5 percent.

If approved, there will be a minimum 5-percent raise across the board. Targeted ranks will see a 6- to 10-percent raise.

"These two scenarios are not cumulative," Averill said. "We will only have one pay raise, either the 4.6 percent or the targeted. If the legislative language permits, the fiscal 2002 NDAA rates will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002."

Averill said it is important for people to keep in mind that because the NDAA status for 2002 is unknown, finance officials anticipate late notification to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

"Members may not see the new pay rates in their mid-month (January 2002) pay," she said. "But, they will receive all required pay and allowances as soon as possible."

Because fiscal 2002 basic allowance for housing rates are based on fiscal 2001 authorization, new rates will take effect regardless of fiscal 2002 NDAA status. They will be based on an 11.3 per-

cent out-of-pocket cost for the National Median Housing Cost.

Averill said out-of-pocket costs will be reduced to zero by 2005. Housing costs are calculated based on median rent plus average utilities and insurance in each local area for rank and dependency stats.

"If a particular BAH rate doesn't increase, it's because the local BAH is already set at or below the dollar amount out-of-pocket expense for that grade and dependency status for the same level of housing," Averill said.

Housing costs are based on fair-market rentals and not mortgage prices.

The separate BAH rate determined by the Secretary of Defense for transition from overseas locations and for reserve component members on periods of active duty less than 139 days will increase 4.6 percent. BAH-differential will also increase 4.6 percent.

Like BAH rates, fiscal 2002 basic allowance for subsistence rates are also based on last year's NDAA. On Jan. 1, enlisted people who have graduated basic military training will see an increase in their BAS, raising it to

\$241.81 a month. In circumstances where a prorated amount must be paid for a partial month, the daily rate will be \$7.95.

Officer BAS will increase to \$166.48 per month. Prorated amounts for partial months will be \$5.47 per day.

People who currently receive the rations in kind not available may see a decrease in their BAS. RIKNA will terminate Dec. 31 unless the fiscal 2002 NDAA allows it to continue. If approved, the amount will remain \$262.50 per month.

Averill said overseas and continental U.S. cost-of-living allowances will be adjusted Jan. 1.

Also based on the fiscal 2001 NDAA is the family subsistence supplemental allowance.

"Beginning Feb. 1, 2002, all FSAA payments need to be recertified using new 2002 pay and allowance tables," Averill said. "To ensure there aren't pay gaps in payments, recertifications can be made between Jan. 2 and March 2, 2002."

Tables for 2002 military pay and allowances should be posted on the Internet by the end of the year.



Courtesy photo

## Hangin' out

Nathan Wheeler, son of Deborah Wheeler, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Demand Reduction Program manager, and Drug Education for Youth Program mentor, climbs the Alpine Tower and Climbing Wall at James Island County Park. The Demand Reduction Office took Team Charleston youth on the trip in November. Family members of active duty, Reserve, retired, Civil Service and Non-appropriated-fund DOD personnel are eligible to participate in the Drug Education for Youth Program. DEFY emphasizes the positive development of the mind, body and spirit for youth between 9 and 12 years old. For more information, or to volunteer or enroll a child, call 963-6849.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Charleston Profile



Courtesy photo

### Santa Claus

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Toy Delivery Squadron, North Pole

Santa Claus, a resident of the North Pole, has been delivering toys to Charleston AFB boys and girls for many years. Santa also has been tasked with the additional duty of delivering presents to other children around the world.

"It's a lot of work, but I really enjoy it," said Santa. "I can't take all the credit because I have a great staff of helpers assisting me. I'm never short on help, but my helpers are often short."

A popular misconception is Santa only works one day per year. That just isn't true. Santa said he works every day preparing for his big deliveries on Dec. 25.

"My staff and I are busy all year," said Santa. "During the summer months, the children tend to forget that I'm watching. They should remember I know who's being bad and good. So be good for goodness sake."

Santa said the behavior of CAFB children has been exceptional this year.

"There was a lot of effort by CAFB kids to be better than last year," said Santa. "It didn't go unnoticed."

While Santa isn't ready to trade in his sleigh and reindeer just yet, he did make mention of testing a C-17 in the future during an Airlift/Tanker Association meeting last month.

"The C-17 may meet the needs of my customers," said Santa. "It may be a good break for the reindeer in the future. While the aircraft is capable of landing on a rooftop, I need to be certain the rooftop can handle the plane."

As a reminder, Santa said he works so hard on Dec. 25 that he gets hungry and any cookies and milk left on the table for him would be appreciated.

155,000 people belong to AFSA. Charleston AFB AFSA holds a meeting the second Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tundra Gatewood at 963-6901.

### Family Support Center

**Sponsorship Training:** Jan. 2, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Jan. 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Newcomer's Tour:** Jan. 3, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Home Buying Workshop:** Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Job Search Basics:** Jan. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Educational Opportunities:** Jan. 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Deployment for Children and Parents:** Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**Investing A-Z part 1:** Jan. 11, 1-4 p.m.

**Car Buying Workshop:** Jan. 15, 1-3:30 p.m.

**Transition Assistance Workshop:** Jan. 15-17, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Mini Job Fair:** Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m.

**Investing A-Z part 2:** Jan. 18, 8-11 a.m.

**Resume II:** Jan. 22, 9-10:30 a.m., or 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**Homecoming - Making the Transition:** Jan. 23, 1-2:30 p.m.

**Interview Techniques:** Jan. 24, 1-4 p.m.

**Troops-to-Teachers:** Jan. 28, 10-11 a.m.

**Smart Women Finish Rich:** Jan. 29, 6-8 p.m.

**SMOOTH Move:** Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

### Spotlight

**Wing promotion:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will hold its monthly promotion ceremony Dec. 28, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Daniel Wright at 963-5956.

### Around the base

**Commissary:** The Charleston AFB Commissary holiday hours are as follows:

Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1, closed

Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Dining hall:** The dinner hours at the Gaylor Dining Facility have returned to the regular schedule, 4:30-7 p.m.

**Flu shots:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group has received all of its influenza vaccine shipment and is now able to offer the vaccine to all authorized beneficiaries. Immunization Clinic hours are Mondays-Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30-11:30 a.m., and 1-4:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 7:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, call 963-6714.

**NCO decals:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron has NCO automobile decals available at Pass and ID, and at the Dorchester Gate, Mondays-Fridays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 963-3626.

**Holiday messages:** From now until Dec. 31, Circuit City stores are video-

taping holiday wishes of family members whose sponsors are serving overseas. The messages will be put on DVD and sent to the service member. A valid ID is required to use this free service.

**Holiday postcards:** Air Force Times is sponsoring Operation Postcard, an online service allowing family and friends of airmen overseas to create and send free color postcards through the APO/FPO mail. Personalized postcards will be printed and mailed to the service member within one business day. Go to [www.AirForceTimes.com](http://www.AirForceTimes.com) to participate.

**Angel tree:** The Family Support Center and the Base Chapel have angel trees with the gender and age of children on them. People can pull a card from the tree and return a wrapped gift for the child they selected.

**Embry-Riddle:** Class registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Spring Term I is going on now through Jan. 6. Classes are held at the Community Education Center. For more information, call 767-8912.

**Recall:** First Alert is voluntarily recalling almost 600,000 household fire extinguishers. The extinguishers can fail to discharge when the trigger is activated. First Alert model FE1A10G with serial numbers beginning with: RH, RK, RL, RP, RT, RU or RW are included. Consumers with a

recalled fire extinguisher can call (866) 669-2736, or go to [www.firstalert.com](http://www.firstalert.com) to receive more information.

**AFSA:** The Air Force Sergeants Association's mission is to advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness that will support the well-being of Air Force enlisted personnel and their families. Over

## Airlift Dispatch editorial policies explained

The *Airlift Dispatch* is meant to provide the commander a primary means of communicating mission-essential information to the Charleston AFB community.

Because of Air Force, Air Mobility Command and local policies, the staff of the *Airlift Dispatch* must ensure all stories follow a specific format. All copy submitted to the *Airlift Dispatch* is edited to ensure it conforms to Air Force journalism guidelines for news writing; conforms to the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual and local procedures for abbreviations, capitalization, etc.; and meets appropriate story length to facilitate layout and design.

Recurring columns from base agencies are discouraged. This helps ensure each organization receives a fair amount of coverage for its missions and people.

Articles longer than 50 words must be e-mailed to [dispatch@charleston.af.mil](mailto:dispatch@charleston.af.mil) or saved on a disk as a word document and submitted, along with a hard copy, to the *Airlift Dispatch* office, located in Bldg. 1600, Suite 224. The disk must be labeled with the name of the article and author. Articles or announcements of less than 50 words may be submitted by fax to the public affairs office at (843) 963-5604. Articles that violate Department of Defense, Air Force or base instructions will not be published.

Due to printing and copy deadlines set by contract with the commercial publisher, articles and announcements submitted to the *Airlift Dispatch* must be received by the Friday before the intended publication date.

*Airlift Dispatch* articles will be coordinated with affected agencies as deemed appropriate by the public affairs officer and/or editor. Agencies submitting articles can make special requests to the public affairs officer or editor to review an article before publication. The requester must then be available to review the article prior to the printing deadline. This review phase is to allow for correction of errors in fact or misleading statements.

All advertisements and classified ads are placed through the civilian publisher. The publisher can be reached at 849-1778.

For more information about *Airlift Dispatch* policy and procedures, call 963-5571.

## COMMENTARY

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

## Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to [sales@islandpapers.com](mailto:sales@islandpapers.com). Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

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Editorial content is prepared by the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

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## STEP promotions, award winners announced

By Col. Karl Young  
437 AW vice commander

It was my great pleasure to recognize our people recently promoted under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. The program provides us an opportunity to recognize some of our truly outstanding airmen. The competition was extremely tough this year as always.

Receiving STEP promotions to technical sergeant were Theodore Mueller, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron; Maria Dillingham-Green, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group; and Rene DeLaRosa, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. Receiving a STEP promotion to master sergeant was Lisa Manigault, 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron. Congratulations!

I was also honored at staff meeting to recognize a number of award recipients. I presented wing coins to Tech. Sgt. James Herriot, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group, and Tech. Sgt. Greg Driggers, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, for their accomplishments at the NCO Academy. Driggers was a Distinguished Graduate and the Levitow award recipient and Herriot was a DG.

Congratulations to Chief Master Sgt. Carla Sharman, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, for winning the 2001 Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership Award. Air Mobility Command winners include Tech Sgt. T. Shea Saul, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, for Ground Safety NCO of the Year; Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Swiecicki, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, for the Weapons Safety NCO of the Year; and Nicole Shope, 437 CES, for the 2001 Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Award for Individual Excellence.

The 437 CES also received the AMC 2001 Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award. Our 437<sup>th</sup> and 315<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadrons were selected as the 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force nominee to compete at AMC for the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 2001. Outstanding!

As the holidays approach, we were pleased to receive another shipment of non-perishable items from the middle Tennessee area as part of Project Unlimited Support. Retired Lt. Col. Randy Harmon, who heads the effort, arranged for several grocery stores and area radio and TV stations to help with the overall effort. About 2,000 pounds of goods were brought down on a tractor-trailer Monday. The many items consisted of everything from books and food to toiletries. Unit first sergeants will arrange for delivery of the items to base families and deployed airmen. See the article on page 12 for more details.

Charleston continues to support the nation in various

ways, and one of those unique missions was flying Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his party into Bagram AB, Afghanistan, about 20 miles from the capital of Kabul. Rumsfeld was in the area visiting various countries such as Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia as part of the NATO's Partnership for Peace Activity. We received high praise from everyone involved for our outstanding support of this high profile visit that was seen on national television. Charleston crews proudly support these visits, and it was once again a great team effort.

Col. Mark Stephens, headquarters 21 AF, led a Force Protection Sustainment Team to look at our security practices as part of a staff assistance visit Wednesday through today. The team was here to assess the impact of long-term increased Force Protection Condition sustainment, identify shortfalls, validate manpower, identify best practices and crossfeed that information throughout the command. It was a welcome look at our practices and we benefited immensely from the visit.

We also hosted Dr. Lester Pittman as a guest speaker for the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program on Tuesday. Dr. Pittman, who is also a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, spoke about the Middle East, Islam, and American policy. Dr. Pittman provided a unique perspective on Middle Eastern issues our airmen will probably face during the course of their careers. We appreciate him taking time out of his busy day to talk with us.

The annual New Year's Eve bash will be held in the Charleston Club and will be free, once again, to all club card members. The club is planning an extensive buffet and a night of entertainment that is sure to please. I hope to see you there.

But, it is important that everyone remain safe during this holiday period, as more and more people will venture out on the local highways. Please make Operational Risk Management a part of your own locally developed procedures. A little prior planning to reduce inherent risks can save someone from serious injury. Be cautious and safe out there, and never drink and drive.

This is the last time that I will address the wing in this column until after the New Year; I just want to say I've been proud to be associated with the wing this past year. We have an amazing slate of accomplishments by some outstanding professionals. Our people have led the command during Enduring Freedom and continue to set the example and make history. I am very thankful to be at Charleston AFB and to serve with such fine people. Be safe, be proud and happy holidays!

## AMC commander's holiday greeting

By Gen. John W. Handy  
USTRANSCOM commander-in-chief  
and AMC commander

No matter how we celebrate this time of the year, the words "home for the holidays" has special meaning to all of us, evoking countless memories and emotions. They are words that hold particular significance to those of us in the military.

Some of us will be fortunate enough to celebrate this holiday season with family and friends. But while we are enjoying the pleasures of the season in the comfort and safety of our homes, thousands of Air Mobility Warriors will be deployed around the globe defending the freedoms that we all hold so

dear. I urge you to keep them in your prayers, that they all return home quickly and safely and that justice and peace will be restored to our great nation and to the world.

To all of you, whether at home or deployed, my sincere thanks for your magnificent service. You exemplify the spirit of selfless service, which has made our country great. Be assured our nation, along with the entire free world, appreciates your efforts and the sacrifices made by you and your families.

Mickey and I wish each and every member of the AMC team a happy and safe holiday season and a very prosperous new year.





# A soldier's Christmas Poem

**The following was written by a U.S. Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan**

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
he lived all alone,  
in a one-bedroom house  
made of  
plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney  
with presents to give,  
and to see just who  
in this home did live.  
I looked all about,  
a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents,  
not even a tree.  
No stocking by the mantle,  
just boots filled with sand,  
on the wall hung pictures  
of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges,  
awards of all kinds,  
a sober thought  
came through my mind.  
For this house was  
different,  
It was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a  
soldier,

Once I could see clearly.  
The soldier lay sleeping,  
silent, alone,  
curled up on the floor  
in this one-bedroom  
home.

The face was so gentle,  
the room in such disorder,  
not how I pictured  
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero  
of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho,  
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families  
who I saw this night,  
owed their lives to these  
soldiers

who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,  
the children would play,  
and grownups would  
celebrate

a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom  
each month of the year,  
because of the soldiers,  
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder  
how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve  
in a land far from home.

The very thought  
brought a tear to my eye,

I dropped to my knees  
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened  
and I heard a rough voice,

"Santa don't cry,  
this life is my choice;

"I fight for freedom,  
I don't ask for more,  
my life is my God,

my country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over  
and drifted to sleep,

I couldn't control it,  
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,  
so silent and still  
and we both shivered  
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave  
on that cold, dark, night,  
this guardian of honor  
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled  
over,  
with a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "Carry on  
Santa,  
it's Christmas Day, all is  
secure."

One look at my watch,  
and I knew he was right.

"Merry Christmas my  
friend,  
and to all a good night."

## You're always a mentor

**By Lt. Col. Bob King**  
*437 APS commander*

Someone told me just the other day that I was making my way toward the top of their list of people they would want as their mentor. I laughed, and then I started thinking more and more about what they'd said. The realization I finally came to was that we're always mentoring, even when we don't know it.

The driver who swerves in and out of traffic on I-26 serves as a reminder that we should drive safely, the rude sales clerk reminds us to be kind to people we deal with, and the person who does shabby work encourages us to do the best work we can.

Many years ago I was a counselor at a YMCA summer camp in upstate New York. Part of the camp routine included a "morning thought" that counselors were scheduled to give on a random basis. On my assigned day, I read a clipping out of the Sunday paper, said a couple of words of my own, and promptly forgot about the whole event.

A couple of years ago I attended a camp reunion that included campers and counselors from across the camp's 75 year history. I was surprised when a man walked up to me and asked if I remembered the morning thought that I gave. I couldn't remember it, but he remembered every word, even though nearly 25 years had passed. This really brought home the fact that people are always watching and listening to everything you do and say.

So, the next time you're thinking about cutting corners, remember that someone is probably watching and listening to what you're doing. If you remember that you're always a mentor, you'll do the right thing.

## FEATURE

# News crew flies with CAFB in Germany

Story and photos by  
**Master Sgt. Dan Murphy**  
 437 AW Public Affairs

Two local newsmen from WCBD television, the Charleston NBC affiliate, flew to Ramstein AB, Germany, to cover Team Charleston members deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Blair Miller, reporter, and Dana Ratliff, photojournalist, were in Germany Dec. 5-10 to cover Charleston's current mission, including humanitarian aid airdrops over Afghanistan.

The two are producing a 30-minute program about their experience that will air on local channel two Saturday, 7 p.m., just in time for Christmas.

"It's one of those rare opportunities for a journalist to cover something like this," said Miller. "It's overwhelming when you see this happening. I didn't realize the role Charleston is playing. We've seen so much. It's hard to describe what we've seen, we'll let the tape speak for itself."

Ratliff agreed, "To me this is a trip of a lifetime. I've always appreciated the military, as my father was a Marine. To see it step by step, it's been really incredible."

The two spent 12-14 hours a day interviewing the troops for the special, to include many Christmas messages to loved ones back home. Messages were taped by many, from the youngest airman to the current commander of the 437<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Squadron, Lt. Col. John Zazworsky.

"We're glad they (WCBD) came over," said Zazworsky. "It means a lot to everyone here."

The crew could be found anywhere there were Charleston personnel, concentrating a good deal of time on the



Reporter Blair Miller, from WCBD TV 2, the local NBC affiliate, is fitted for an oxygen mask, with a little help from Master Sgt. Joe Montalvo, a deployed physiology technician from the 16<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. Miller, along with photojournalist Dana Ratliff, flew with Charleston AFB C-17s during a humanitarian airdrop mission over Afghanistan from Ramstein AB, Germany.

aircraft maintainers. They followed Staff Sgt. Brad Rawn, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, as he performed maintenance on the C-17 and after duty hours to get a feel for what the troops did in their spare time.

"I appreciate them coming all the way over here to tell our story," said Rawn. "I didn't mind sharing some of my time with them."

Rawn read some letters he received from his wife while deployed and talked about how much the military and America means to him. His interview will air on the special.

After seeing how the aircraft are maintained, Miller and Ratliff got the chance to fly with Team Charleston. The pair were matched up with a crew and sent off on a humanitarian drop mission.

"In some ways it was surreal," said Miller. "When we were going over the Alps, I then realized we weren't in Charleston but headed to a combat zone."

"When the doors opened all you see is darkness," continued Miller, "You're thinking Afghanistan is right there, and

we are this close to it. I found that remarkable."

Ratliff also expressed awe at the opportunity.

"I've seen some awesome things in my job, and to see the C-17 with contrails coming off it and the Alps in the background, it was like being in heaven," Ratliff said.

The line between a reporter and just another proud American may have blurred during a week in Germany with military professionals.

"One thing I learned about the military is they are trained to do a job, and it's just another day," said Miller. "If everyone could see what we saw, they would have a greater respect for what the military does. It's rare when something hits you in the face like this has."

Ratliff said as an American it's emotional to see and comforting to know the military is there. He said it also makes one very proud.

Miller agreed. "It's comforting. How could it not make you proud? When I was sitting there looking at the (humanitarian) boxes and the flags hanging in the

plane you're thinking that Sept. 11 started this."

Many things that have happened since the attacks Sept. 11 will bring lasting changes to the world, and many people look back at why it all happened. In the meantime, the quiet professionals from Team Charleston will ensure airdrop and airlift carry on, one mission at a time.



Miller and Ratliff film a piece to be used in an upcoming special featuring Charleston AFB's personnel and aircraft deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Miller and Ratliff interview members of the German army, who work with U.S. Army Quartermasters building the tri-wall aerial delivery system used to deliver humanitarian rations.



# Project US returns to CAFB

## Chief explains distribution of goods

**By Senior Airman  
Jason Smith**  
*437 AW Public Affairs*

**P**roject Unlimited Support touched Charleston AFB once again Monday as 2,000 pounds of various items arrived at the gate.

Among the items delivered were toys, food, gum, snacks, books and letters from children.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Randy Harmon organized the efforts of Tennessee residents and created Project US to provide care packages, post cards, food and gifts for military members and their families.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Jenonia Lisenbee, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron first sergeant, the goods will be distributed to CAFB members through first sergeants.

"We get input from our squadron members and find families who need these things," said Lisenbee. "I

imagine some of the toys for smaller kids will be part of the Holiday Angel Tree gift giving.

"We'll send some games and things of that nature to the deployed folks down-range," Lisenbee continued. "We plan on sending the books to the deployed locations so they can add to their libraries. The cards and letters from the children have the highest priority for me. I want to ensure we get them out as soon as possible to the deployed folks."

Lisenbee said this shipment was especially helpful because of the upcoming holidays. Some items should help the Angel tree enormously, and the things that can be sent to deployed locations can add to their holiday experience.

Monday's shipment is the second, and largest, to be delivered to CAFB.

Lisenbee said anyone who wants to request any of the items delivered should contact their first sergeant.



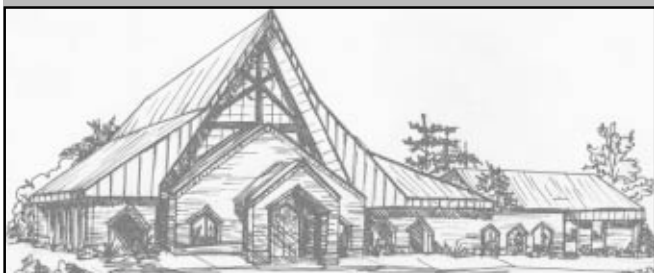
*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Bright*

## Move it on out

Charleston AFB's first Halvorsen loader arrived at its new home, the 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, Dec. 7. The Halvorsen loaders will eventually replace the older 25,000-pound and wide-body elevator loaders still in service. The old 25,000-pound loader could only be raised to a height of 13 feet. The Halvorsen can extend to more than 18 feet. It is also easier to reconfigure for deployment in support of various operations. Also known as the Next Generation Small Loader, the unit was named after retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, the famed 'Candy Bomber' of World War II. The 437 APS is scheduled to receive another of the improved loaders sometime in the near future.



## Chapel schedule



**107 Arthur Drive**

**Office hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Phone:** 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

### **Catholic Services**

**Saturday** -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

**Weekdays** -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

### **Protestant Services**

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

**Thursday** -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

**Buddhist:** Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

**Orthodox:** Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

**Jewish:** Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

**Islamic:** Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

## Movie schedule

### **Admission prices:**

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



**Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.**

### **Friday, 7:30 p.m.**

#### ***"Heist" – Gene Hackman***

Joe has a beautiful, young wife, money owed to him and a job he loves; he's a thief. Everything goes sour when he gets caught on a security camera tape, he's shortchanged on the money he's owed and his wife may be betraying him. Who is to be believed, and who is to be betrayed? Who's going to walk away smiling, and who's not going to walk away at all? **(R) 110 minutes**

### **Saturday, 7:30**

#### ***"The One" – Jet Li***

Imagine you exist in different forms in parallel universes. Your alter egos live out different destinies and follow different paths, both good and evil. Parallel universes collide when a rogue agent assigned to monitor these universes begins eliminating versions of himself in each alternate reality. Assuming more energy and power with each version he destroys, he must finally confront the one man still standing between himself and his ultimate goal. **(PG-13) 87 minutes**

### **Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.**

#### ***"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" – Daniel Radcliffe***

**(PG) 152 minutes**

# Fitness & Sports

## Week 16

Name/Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, Dec. 29****Baltimore @ Tampa Bay****Sunday, Dec. 30****Arizona @ Carolina****Atlanta @ Miami****Buffalo @ New York Jets****Chicago @ Detroit****Cleveland @ Tennessee****Indianapolis @ St. Louis****Kansas City @ Jacksonville****Minnesota @ Green Bay****New York Giants @ Philadelphia****Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati****San Francisco @ Dallas****Oakland @ Denver****Seattle @ San Diego****Sunday, Dec. 30, 8:30 p.m.****Washington @ New Orleans**

Sunday night total points: \_\_\_\_\_

Swami's Sunday night points: **46**

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in  
Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

\*\*Picks must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 28, 4 p.m.\*\*

## Seasons Greetings from Swami

**By the Swami***Pigskin prognosticator*

It's Christmas time, and the Swami wants to extend his warmest wishes to all his fans out there. If you are not a Swami fan, then Bah Humbug to you!

This will be the Swami's next to last article, since the *Airlift Dispatch* is going on vacation. You will see the final two weeks of picks for the football season in this edition, so be sure to get your picks in on time.

Week 14 winner is Dale Robinson. Robinson beat out Roger Hilt and Dave Linquist by having the better tiebreaker score. All three had records of 12-3. Robinson is another first time winner. Out of 14 weeks, there has only been one repeat winner, and that is yours truly, your hero, the Swami.

Last weeks loser, Jeffrey Fuqua, was upset with the Swami over his remarks in the *Airlift Dispatch*. Fuqua's picking this week was not much better. He was 7-8. That is also a losing record. The Swami only points out the obvious. Fuqua's friends already know he's a loser, so he shouldn't be crying and sending e-mails about how they harass him for not knowing anything about football.

Here are the top ten Swami pickers and their winning percentages (minimum of 11 weeks):

1. Aldo the Greek Ingold .....	663
2. Travis Anderson .....	660
3. Scott Bartley .....	647
4. The Lovegod .....	644
5. Dale Robinson .....	639
6. Ron Desautels .....	634
7. Maharishi .....	634
8. The Roadrunner .....	630
9. The Swami .....	629
10. George Thompson .....	616

## Week 17

Name/Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, Jan. 6****Arizona @ Washington****Buffalo @ Miami****Cincinnati @ Tennessee****Dallas @ Detroit****Denver @ Indianapolis****Green Bay @ New York Giants****New England @ Carolina****Philadelphia @ Tampa Bay****San Francisco @ New Orleans****Atlanta @ St. Louis****Jacksonville @ Chicago****New York Jets @ Oakland****Kansas City @ Seattle****Cleveland @ Pittsburgh****Monday, Jan. 7****Minnesota @ Baltimore**

Sunday night total points: \_\_\_\_\_

Swami's Sunday night points: **64**

Swami's says: "Don't eat the yellow snow."

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in  
Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

\*\*Picks must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 4, 4 p.m.\*\*